

**Council on Postsecondary Education**  
**November 7, 2005**

## **Academic Program Productivity Review Update**

Three rounds of university program productivity reviews were studied to determine the outcomes associated with program closures and restructuring (see Attachment 1). KCTCS results were not included because of historically low numbers of low-productivity programs. In addition, because of the large-scale redesign of many academic programs as part of the recent restructuring, many programs have not yet been reviewed. Nevertheless, issues that emerged in the 2004 KCTCS program productivity review are discussed in the findings.

A smaller proportion of eligible programs fell below the established productivity thresholds with each round of productivity reviews. This indicates that, overall, the reviews have accomplished their primary goal of reducing the number of low-productivity programs.

Universities themselves reported both fiscal and programmatic effects of three rounds of productivity reviews. Student services were improved through creation of more updated and relevant curricula, improved advising, and more flexible degree options for students to meet program requirements. Notably, some altered programs required additional funding to increase productivity. Efficiencies were reported due to program consolidations, reducing time-to-degree for students, and closer alignment with KCTCS programs.

### **Program Productivity Review Issues for Further Study**

- Should quantitative reviews be moved to a four-year cycle for the universities and KCTCS, with interim years being used to conduct campus consultations to update and improve program development and review processes at the state and campus level?
- Should the program productivity review be revised to include the measurement of fiscal and programmatic benefits associated with the changes?
- How can certifications within degree programs be better acknowledged as indicators of productivity?
- Given the increase in collaborative programs, how should multi-institutional program productivity be measured?